merge the major employment generation schemes *viz.* Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme.

5. Rejuvenation, modernisation and technology upgradation for coir Industry: The Scheme has two components. First is the rejuvenation and modernisation part. Increasing the utilization of husk, better conversion rate of husk into coir products and providing additional employment to around 50,000 workers per year are some of the targets.

The second part is to promote 5 mega clusters, one each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa.

Distribution of funds to fertilizer companies

†2759. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are possibilities of fertilizers crisis in the current Kharif season also;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether subsidy on urea is pending to be sanctioned for fertilizer industries;

(d) whether fertilizer industry is facing cash crunch;

(e) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning funds so far to the fertilizers manufacturing units; and

(f) by when the pending subsidy is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir, all efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers in the States during the current Kharif season. However, movement and distribution of only 50% of indigenous production of urea is under the control of the Government. Also, State Governments are responsible for ensuring proper distribution of fertilizers within the State.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (f) The release of subsidy on Urea is a continuous process. As on 24.4.2007, there is an outstanding liability of Rs. 3885.01 crores pending for release to the urea manufacturing units. The funds available under Vote on Account 2007-08 for payment of urea subsidy is being released to the manufacturing units and further funds will be released after availability of the Budget provisions for the year 2007-08.

Price index for medicines

2760. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a separate price index to monitor the trends in prices of drugs and medicines;

(b) if so, the details of the trends in retail and bulk medicine prices during the year 2006-07;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government would consider formulating such an index;

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government have taken cognizance of erratic rise in the retail prices of medicines; and

(g) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. However, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is studying the possibility of developing a Pharma Index in consultation with ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) to (g) The Office of the Economic Adviser, M/o Commerce and Industry is the nodal office for working out Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities including drugs and medicines. Based on the information,